

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /146 W

-----122433 010902Z /15

R 010702Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3146
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 3301

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS
SUBJ: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

1. SUMMARY FISHERIES TEAM MET WITH AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS SPRFA AND PRESENT STATUS OF EFFORT. GOA OFFICIALS DISTURBED BY FIJIAN AND PGNG POSITIONS, AND CONCERNED THAT ENTIRE EFFORT MAY BE STALLED. GOA BASIC POSITIONS ON ISSUES REMAIN IN HARMONY WITH THOSE OF US, AND THEY ARE WILLING TO EXPLORE VARIETY OF SOLUTIONS TO MOVE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG. END SUMMARY.

2. TEAM, ACCOMPANIED BY EMBOFF FROST, MET MAY 1 WITH GOA TEAM HEADED BY DFA ASSISTANT SECRETARY GATE AND WHICH INCLUDED FISHERIES EXPERT, RYAN. US SIDE BRIEFED GOA ON RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN PACIFIC AND DISCUSSED MOTIVATIONS BEHIND GOF AND GPNG POSITIONS. GOA OF OPINION THAT GOF
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ATTENDED FIRST SUVA MEETING WITHOUT HAVING A CLEARLY DEFINED GOVERNMENT POSITION AND THA PM RATU MARA IS JUST NOW TAKING AN INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS. THE RESULT IS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING OF GOF POSITIONS WHICH GOA BELIEVES THEY HAVE HELD ALL ALONG. WITH REGARD TO PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY GPNG FISHERIES EXPERT, WILSON, GOA STATED THEY DID NOT BELIEVE IT WAS POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE

TO OTHER NATIONS, AND FROM FISHERIES PERSPECTIVE, THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT IT.

3. TEAM DISCUSSED VARIOUS ISSUES WITH GOA RELATING TO THE SUVA DRAFT. US PRESENTED OPINION THAT GENERAL LANGUAGE RELATING TO GEOGRAPHIC UNITS OF ORGANIZATION MIGHT BETTER SERVE BOTH GOA AND US, TO WHICH GOA AGREED. GOA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT TWO-TREATY APPROACH SEEMED TO OFFER SOLUTION TO BASIC JURIDICAL PROBLEM BUT THAT THEY WERE FLEXIBLE ON ISSUE. THE TWO SIDES DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF CREATING TWO DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS BY A SINGLE TREATY, WITH DIFFERING CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP. BOTH AGREED TO REFLECT ON THIS AS WELL AS OTHER OPTIONS. US RAISED ISSUE OF FUTURE MEMBERSHIP FOR JAPAN AND OTHERS IN ORGANIZATION, AND GOA INDICATED SUPPORT FOR US POSITION.

4. GOA EXPRESSED VIEW THAT REPRESENTATION FOR DEPENDENT TERRITORIES WAS STILL VERY MUCH AN OPEN QUESTION WITH MANY GOVERNMENTS. THEY BELIEVE FRENCH ARE PURSUING VOTING RIGHTS FOR THEIR DEPENDENCIES, AND THAT SOME PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS WILL ACCEPT THIS EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS GIVING THE METROPOLITAN STATES ADDITIONAL VOTES. GOA IS CONCERNED OVER THIS ISSUE AND IS OPPOSED TO THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. US TEAM EXPLAINED COMPLEXITIES OF US RELATIONSHIP TO ITS DEPENDENT TERRITORIES AND INDICATED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RESOLVE ISSUE.

5. FOLLOWING FORMAL MEETING, TEAM DISCUSSED TACTICAL SITUATION WITH FISH EXPERT, RYAN. HE STATED THAT MAY MEETING OF FORUM COUNTRIES WOULD BE PIVOTAL AND THAT GOA WOULD TAKE POSITIONS DESIGNED TO MOVE NEGOTIATIONS ALONG. HE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF US REQUIREMENTS AND APPRECIATED THAT WE WERE FLEXIBLE ON STRUCTURE OF ORGANIZATION SO LONG AS THOSE REQUIREMENTS WERE MET. RYAN STATED THAT GOA UNDERSTOOD NEED FOR SEPARATE HANDLING OF HMS AND COASTAL SPECIES AND INDICATED THAT GOA WAS FLEXIBLE ON HOW TO ACCOMPLISH BASIC PURPOSE. HE PROMISED THAT GOA WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF EVENTS OF MAY MEETING THROUGH US EMBASSY SUVA.
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